

New-York Daily Tribune

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1863.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The transport *Comptolton* arrived here on Wednesday morning from Hilton Head, with 350 sick and wounded soldiers. The sick were taken from the general hospitals at Hilton Head, Beaufort, S. C., and other points, and are from Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New-York, and Connecticut regiments. They were taken to the general hospital at David's Island. A portion of Gen. Hunter's troops occupy Folly Island, near Charleston, where they have become permanently established. Palmetto leaves have been found to be a good substitute for canvas for shelter. Our pickets and the enemy's on Morris Island converse freely across the narrow creek which separates them, and miniature vessels, freighted with tobacco, have been often sent to our side, with requests for reciprocal cargoes of coffee, the total want of which the Rebels say is a cause of great discomfort to them.

Some officers of the U. S. ship *Columbia*, of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, which was wrecked off Wilmington, N. C., on the 14th of January last, have just reached New-York. At the Libby Prison, in Richmond, they were put into a room in which there were over 200 inmates, prisoners from different quarters. Not more than one-half of these had so much as a plain plank bunk to sleep on, and those without blankets. The rest were obliged to sleep on the floor. As to food, for the last four weeks of their confinement, the prisoners had no meat of any kind that was not tainted. The bread was of a fair quality, but the quantity allowed to each man was very small.

Yesterday two New-York regiments, the 16th, recruited in Albany, and the 2d, recruited at Troy, halted here on their return. The former stopped at the Park Barracks, hoping and expecting to start for Albany in the course of the night; the latter took the evening boat for Troy. These regiments return each with about 350 men. They were both in the last engagement; Col. Park of the 2d had his leg shot away while leading his men in the fight. The 16th lost 180 men at Chancellorsville, killed, wounded and missing. They all speak in the highest terms of Gen. Hooker and the excellent condition of the army.

Gov. Morton has asked the Secretary of War to order the confinement of 800 of the Rebel prisoners now in our hands, that they may be held as hostages for the exchange and return of the 400 Alabama men belonging to Col. Streight's 51st Indiana Regiment, who were not paroled with the other rebels recently captured, but sent to Richmond, and denounced as renegade Alabamians.

Robert Ould, the Rebel Commissioner, for the exchange of prisoners, came down on the flag-ship *Albatross* to Newport News on Monday morning, and reported that 5,000 Union prisoners were now at Richmond waiting to be exchanged, and that 5,000 more will be there in a few days. These were all taken, according to the Rebel Commissioner, at the last battle of Fredericksburg.

Our correspondent near Vicksburg, but above that city, says: Communication overland is kept open between here and Carthage. Traips of wagons leave here daily laden with supplies. Grant seems to be on the right road at last to the rear of Vicksburg. He is said to be near the railway bridge over Blackwater River. If true, it severs them from Rebelism.

A letter has been received at Memphis from A. D. Richardson of THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, dated Jackson, May 6, stating that Col. Burns, Mr. Brown and himself, with others, escaped from the wreck of the sunken tug, after half an hour's swimming, were picked up, taken to Vicksburg, and thence to Jackson. All are well, and had been kindly treated.

A letter from Newbern says that a large majority of the nine-months soldiers have expressed a determination to re-enlist for the war, after a month's furlough, provided they can return to this Department, and fight under their old chief, Gen. Foster.

It is said that the Rebel Cavalry in front of Rosecrans's Army are constantly changing position, and that Wheeler and Morgan are at Liberty and Alexandria, with 5,000 Cavalry—all which is supposed to indicate an attack on Nashville.

It is reported that the Hon. Clement L. Vallandigham has been sentenced by the Court-Martial to two years' banishment to the Dry Tortugas. The minority were in favor of sending him South, with the intention not to return until the war is over.

Rebel papers recently stated that Gen. Grant had been beaten back from Big Black River on the 6th inst. Official dispatches from the General of that date, received at Washington, make no allusion to fighting of any kind on that day.

Gen. T. F. Meagher has resigned his commission. His letter ascribes his action to the refusal of the Government to allow the Irish Brigade to have a furlough for the purpose of recruiting their thinned ranks.

Gen. Lee, commanding the Rebel army in Virginia, congratulates his troops on the result of the recent contest, and recommends that they unite on Sunday "in ascribing to the Lord of Hosts the glory due his name."

Rebel papers say that the siege of Suffolk, which was kept up only some three or four weeks, enabled Gen. Longstreet to gather up, beside large quantities of corn, over 1,500,000 pounds of bacon.

Col. Benjamin Ringgold, of the 103d New-York, killed in the late action while leading his men, was buried yesterday with military honors, by the corporation and military of this city.

About 300 contrabands, with many horses, followed Col. Kilpatrick, of Gen. Stoneman's cavalry, to Gloucester Point, and were there turned over to the Provost-Marshal.

The English schooner *Wanderer* was caught in trying to run the Wilmington blockade on the 1st inst. She was cleared from Nassau for Beaufort.

The *Washington Star* thinks there is no truth in the report that Gen. Halleck is to take the field in person when the Potomac Army next moves.

Secretary Stanton will allow no more passes to persons looking for dead in the Army of the Potomac, while it remains in its present position.

Maj.-Gen. Burnside has issued General Orders mandating four spies to be hung, and one deserter to be shot, on the 29th of May.

Gov. Pettus (Rebel) of Mississippi issues a proclamation calling on every man capable of being arms to take the field.

About 900 Rebel prisoners, taken by Hooker, were sent up the James on Monday, to be exchanged.

A prize schooner, laden with cotton, taken off Stono Inlet, arrived at Fortress Monroe on the 12th.

GENERAL NEWS.

Yesterday Justice Leonard of the Supreme Court decided adversely to the application which had been made to appoint a Receiver of the Hack-
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made by Charles Devlin, who alleged that Mr. Hope, the Trustee of the contract, had failed to make an accounting of the moneys received. The Judge denied the application, with leave to renew on further evidence than already presented.

The prize-fight between Dunn and Elliot for \$300 a side, which was prevented by the Harbor Police force on Monday morning, was decided yesterday morning in the vicinity of Bull's Ferry, N. J. The fighting was pretty equal up to the close of the twelfth round, when it was alleged that Elliot hit Dunn foul while on the ground. His seconds appealed to the Referee, and that official pronounced it "foul," and that Dunn had won the fight.

The Marshal for the District of Columbia has seized the real and personal estate of Charles S. Wallach, under the Confiscation act. The property is supposed to be worth \$8,000. Mr. Wallach left for the South on the breaking out of the Rebellion.

The coldest theft of recent occurrence happened at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Tuesday, when two men stole the iron safe of the gunboat *Sumter* and carried it off in a small boat. The money they expected, however, was not in it.

The Lay Convention of the Methodist Episcopal Church commenced its session yesterday morning in this city. Judge Wright of Indiana was chosen permanent chairman. There was a large number of delegates present.

The Democratic Committee of Albany have called a meeting of their partisans to denounce the sentence upon Vallandigham and protest against its enforcement.

During the present moving season the Union Ferry Company's boats have carried to Brooklyn 1,870 loads of furniture, and brought from Brooklyn 1,628 loads.

Spain is represented in New-York harbor at present by one frigate; and France by two frigates, a steam-corvette and two steam transports.

On Tuesday, Robert D. Holmes was reappointed Excise Commissioner of this county for six years.

Before the Board there was great excitement in the street, and some of the active fancies were large demand advancing prices. At the regular session, however, the street prices generally were not sustained, although in some descriptions there was a moderate extent, at full prices. For the low-priced Railroad Bonds there was an active inquiry, and the market has a buoyant tone. At the Second Board the market was rampant again on some descriptions, with a large business, and strong for all shares. At the 4 o'clock call the market was very active and excited. At the close there was naturally a little weakness in the descriptions which had advanced most rapidly, but the general tone was strong. In Foreign Exchange there was not much doing, and Sterling was nominal at 105. Freight was not quite firm to Liverpool, but was steady to other ports. Gold was higher at the opening, selling at 149½, and after the Board, on a street rumor of unfavorable advices from our forces at Suffolk, the quotation was forced up to 151, from which point it settled back to 149½ again. Money is working well, and gold buyers have no difficulty in supplying their wants.

On our second page this morning we give reports of several Anniversary Meetings and other local matters of interest.

We print on another page Gen. Burnside's statement made to the Court at Cincinnati, on the application for a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Vallandigham.

It has been carefully stated in a correspondent's letter that Gen. Devens, who commanded the first division of the 11th Corps at Chancellorsville, fled from the field after slight resistance—the writer of course meaning to say that his division fled. We have the authority of Gen. Howard, his Corps Commander, for saying that Gen. Devens early received an extremely painful wound, which partly crushed one foot, and nevertheless remained on the field more than an hour dragging himself painfully over the ground, and gallantly endeavoring to rally his broken troops. His courage and fortitude deserve nothing but praise.

Gen. FRANZ SIGEL returned to this city yesterday, after an ineffectual visit to Washington, which was made in the hope to serve the Republic again in the field. We suppose it will hardly be doubted that Gen. Sigel has some military talent and experience which might be made available against the enemy. Yet he has in vain offered and asked to be assigned to any duty, provided he might be thought competent, even if it were no more than that of an aid on the staff of the General commanding the Army of the Potomac. How long will the military authorities at Washington continue to think they can afford to dispense with the services of loyal, earnest, devoted, capable men, who are willing to be put anywhere they can be useful? When they have ceased to cherish and act on such opinions this war will be considerably nearer its end than it is now.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY.

Our news from the Rappahannock is direct and positive down to Tuesday morning last, at which time one of the Editors of this journal left the Army of the Potomac. All reports of movements since Gen. Hooker recrossed the river, on the night of May 5, are wholly without foundation. The army, after reaching the north side of the Rappahannock, returned leisurely to its old camps, and has occupied them ever since. Gen. Sedgwick has not recrossed with two corps or one, or with any force whatever, nor has any other commander or body of troops been beyond the lines of the camp. So much for the widely-circulated reports with which the inventive talent of Philadelphia favored the country on Saturday and Monday. When the army does move and whither it goes will probably be known after it has started, and not before.

The troops are in good spirits. Among the rank and file there is certainly a feeling of disappointment at the retreat, but nothing which can be called demoralization. It is difficult perhaps for the army to understand why the first campaign was abandoned, but they are nevertheless entirely ready to begin another, and will enter upon it with confidence in themselves and their commanders.

Gen. Stoneman's cavalry performances have been very extensively received as a complete success, and it seems right, therefore, to say that they have been exaggerated. Some mischief was done on the Virginia Central Railroad—a matter of little or no consequence to the immediate success of the movement with which the cavalry was expected to co-operate—but the Richmond and Fredericksburg Rail-

road was so little injured that the trains were not stopped for twenty-four hours.

Gen. Stoneman was ordered to strike that road by forced marches and destroy it. His forced marches consisted in taking four days to travel forty-five miles, from Kelly's Ford to Sexton's Junction, and the destruction was confined to blowing up one or two culverts and displacing a few rails. The destruction in other places was more extensive, but this does not interrupt Lee's communication with Richmond—the essential purpose of Gen. Stoneman's expedition.

It is idle to deny that the campaign of Gen. Hooker, which began so auspiciously, came to a premature and ineffectual end. His losses were considerably heavier than the published estimates, and will not amount to less than sixteen thousand, killed, wounded and missing. The actual present returns exceed seventeen thousand, but may be a little reduced. Lee is said to admit a loss of eighteen thousand, which is far greater than ours in proportion to the strength of his army. But why weigh our losses one against the other? It is success that is of consequence. Gen. Hooker's army, however, still largely outnumbers the Rebel forces, and since it is undeniably in good spirits and condition, let us hope that its next movement will close the long catalogue of its reverses by a decisive victory.

"PEACE" STATE CONVENTION.

The "Peace Democrats" of our State have issued their call for a State Convention, to assemble in this city on Wednesday, June 3. They take the ground affirmed by the supporters of Thomas H. Seymour in Connecticut, saying in their call:

"We love the Union! We will never willingly relinquish it! Its enemies are our enemies, and the enemies of Human Progress, Civilization, and Self-Government. We are opposed to the separation of these States, and for this reason are opposed to all measures, whether of peace or war, tending to that result. We think that the efforts to sustain the Union by force of arms, in the hands of those who now direct the Government, have proved a failure. Whether this failure has been due to ill-advised measures, or to the effect of the measures adopted by the Congress, and the incompetency, fanaticism, and corruption of men in power, have had no effect on our minds. We believe that the administration desires to restore the Union, it cannot be accomplished by mere brute force. Nor do we believe that the past justifies a continuation of such a policy until peaceful measures, whether of peace or war, have been exhausted. As yet, they have not been attempted. 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